

PERSPECTIVES
NEW

A FORTUNATE MAN

**INSPIRED BY A
FORTUNATE MAN:
THE STORY OF A
COUNTRY DOCTOR**
BY JOHN BERGER & JEAN MOHR

**A STAGE
EXPLORATION BY
MICHAEL PINCHBECK**



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

"IF I AM A STORYTELLER IT IS BECAUSE I LISTEN"

— JOHN BERGER

Fifty years ago visionary writer, John Berger, and Swiss photographer, Jean Mohr, published *A Fortunate Man*, a meditation on the role of a doctor that is still widely read by healthcare practitioners today. It followed the day-to-day life of English country GP John Sassall, witnessing through storytelling and photography his compassion as well as his practice as a physician. Fifteen years after the book's publication, the doctor John Sassall committed suicide.

Taking this tragic event as a starting point, *New Perspectives* have developed the UK's first stage exploration of the book to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the NHS.

"*A Fortunate Man* speaks of the way a doctor works, but back when the relationship between a doctor and their patients was very different to today. There's a kind of romanticism about it, between the doctor and his work, the author and his subject. There is a lot of topical debate about the state of the NHS so we want to look at how things have changed since it was written." - Michael Pinchbeck, Writer and Director

A Fortunate Man was first explored as part of an artist training project, *Emerging Perspectives* in 2017, with Michael Pinchbeck and Julian Hughes, coordinated by Theresa Keogh. Project participants made an enriching contribution to our early creative discoveries: Lizzie Bettsworth, Ryan Chadwick, Olwen Davies, Susana de Dios, Mark Elmore, Joanne Ferenczi, Mira Ho, Holly Jackson, Jess Thomas Owens, Susanne Reynolds, Ed Roberts, Laura Ryder, Kieran Spiers.

CAST



Matthew Brown



Hayley Doherty

CREATIVES

Michael Pinchbeck

Writer & Director

Eleanor Field

Design Consultant

Amy Mae

Lighting Designer

Chris Cousin

Sound Designer

Adam York Gregory

AV Designer

Ali Bakewell

Oran O'Neill

Stage Managers

Alison Willcox

Production Manager

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY:

Ryan Chadwick

Original Music

Julian Hughes

Production &
Documentary Photography

Susana de Dios

Documentary Photography
dediosphoto.com

MICHAEL PINCHBECK

Theatre credits include: The man who flew into space from his apartment, The Trilogy (national tours); Concerto, Solo (currently touring); Nottingham Playhouse commissions: The White Album (2006), The Ashes (2011), Bolero (2014, Nottingham Playhouse, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo). Michael is a Principal Lecturer (Professional Practice) and joint MA Theatre Programme Leader at the University of Lincoln.

michaelpinchbeck.co.uk

MATTHEW BROWN

Theatre credits include: Kindertransport (Queen's Theatre Hornchurch, Les Theatres de la Ville Luxembourg & UK Tour), Harvest (New Perspectives UK Tour), Blue/Orange (Theatre Royal Brighton/ATG UK Tour), The Machine Gunners (Polka Theatre, London), The Riddle of the Sands (Jermyn Street Theatre), Pitch Black and Romy and Julian (Vienna's English Theatre) and The Beaux' Stratagem, Hedda Gabler and Much Ado About Nothing (Lichfield Garrick).

TV Credits include: The Revenge Files of Alistair Fury (BBC) and Grandpa in My Pocket (BBC).

HAYLEY DOHERTY

Theatre credits include: Unforgettable (New Perspectives), Larkin with Women (Esk Valley Theatre), Don't Dress for Dinner (Jordan Productions), Much Ado About Nothing, Comedy of Errors and Macbeth (Guildford Shakespeare Company), Living Quarters (The Tobacco Factory), The Snow Queen and Tom's Midnight Garden (Theatre by the Lake), A Fine Bright Day Today (New Vic), The Endings, Hopelessly Devoted to You and The Most Humane Way to Kill a Lobster (Theatre 503), Spunk (The Arcola) and Paradise Lost (Bristol Old Vic Theatre Co.)

TV/Film includes: Jade (Viking/Emu Films), Peaky Blinders, Coronation Street, Death Comes to Pemberley, Silent Witness, The Bill, and Turbulence, BBC Radio plays include Wuthering Heights, If Not Now, When and Dixon of Dock Green as well as readings for Radio 4's Poetry Please and Something Understood.

NEW PERSPECTIVES WOULD LIKE TO GIVE SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Yves Berger for generously allowing us to explore his father's book for this production. We would also like to thank John Berger's friend and colleague Gareth Evans, Dr Gavin Francis who championed the book's republication as well as Simon Eskell, John Snedden and Tom Overton for their generous insights into Sassall's life. The Media Archive for Central England (MACE) for archive film footage. Amanda Farr, Dr Richard Lonsdale, Dr Helen Mead, Dr Andy Sommers, Dr Jane Turrell, Practice Managers Heather Simpson and Karen Gabriel, Ian Trueman, Principal Lecturer at University of Lincoln, Dr David R Hogg, John Wynn-Jones for sharing their professional insight; Rachel Baynton, Rhiannon Jones and the Department of Literature, Language and Theatre, University of Greenwich.

NEW PERSPECTIVES

New Perspectives is an East Midlands-based touring theatre company, specialising in bringing new work to rural and community audiences. Through an annual programme of original adaptations, rare revivals and new writing, we bring live theatre that is vital, affordable and accessible into the heart of wide-ranging communities, as well as to regional, national and international venues. We facilitate and provide career-defining training and mentoring opportunities for East Midlands' theatre artists at all levels and manage the rural touring scheme Northants Touring Arts.

As a registered charity meeting the costs of taking our work into the heart of wide-ranging communities, including those with limited access to the arts, while maintaining low ticket prices is a real challenge. Public funding amounts to only 60% of the annual income we need to realise our ambitions. With your help, through generous donations we can raise vital funds to sustain our touring work and artist development programmes. Do something extraordinary - you can find out more and make a vital contribution online at newperspectives.co.uk

Jack McNamara

Artistic Director

Sally Anne Tye

Executive Director

Alison Willcox

Production Manager

Kara Cole

Communications and
Administrative Assistant

Jayne Williams

Participation Director

Zoe Keen

Bookkeeper

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YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT TO US

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**THE
FISHERMEN**

New Perspectives in association with HOME present

by **CHIGOZIE OBIOMA**

adapted for the stage by Gbolahan Obisesan

**A POWERFUL ALLEGORY OF
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